

Community Environmental Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting

August 1, 2019 -- 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Webber Park Library, 4440 Humboldt Ave N

Board/Commission Members in attendance: Allan Campbell, Anthony Varriano (phone) Brady Steigauf, David Watts, Erin Niehoff, Katie Hill Brandt, Marianna Hefte, Michelle Shaw, Molly Ellis, Nicholas Minderman, Thomas Olsen (Quorum 9)

Guests in attendance: n/a

Staff in attendance: Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski

6:09 Call to Order

Nick Minderman read the following Land Acknowledgement statement: “As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, and today is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all of its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open up this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous people in our community:”

Molly Ellis announced that the MN Indian Women’s Resource Center is recruiting for short- and long-term volunteer activities.

Michelle Shaw announced the Gichi-gami Gathering to Stop Line 3, happening in Duluth on September 28th from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. [Learn more about this event.](#)

Email [Michelle Shaw](#) for more information about an upcoming meeting to discuss the personhood of the Mississippi River, taking place at the Mn350 office. The conversation will include representatives from the Upper Harbor Terminal Community Advisory Committee, the University of Minnesota, Macalester College, Indigenous groups, and more.

Members and guests introduced themselves.

6:05 Adoption of the Agenda + Acceptance of Minutes of July 11, 2019

David Watts made a motion to adopt the agenda and minutes, which Tom Olsen seconded.

Nick Minderman reminded the group that subgroups will be flexible, and focus on specific projects as opposed to general topic areas. Michelle Shaw informed the group

that she will still be working on food systems, and will be collaborating with other City advisory groups.

6:10 Announcements

Outreach and engagement subcommittee announcements

Two events are coming up this month where CEAC is registered to table:

- Urban League Family Day, Saturday, August 24 from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Franklin Open Streets, Sunday, August 25 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

There are also 2 events taking place in September:

- West Broadway Open Streets, Saturday, September 14th, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- MPS Farm to School Community BBQ, September 17, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Members can sign up to table at upcoming events through the CEAC Google Drive folder. These tabling opportunities will be included in announcement emails from now on, as well as in the meeting agendas and minutes.

MnDOT's I94/252 project

Nick Minderman announced to the group that there will be a meeting in North Minneapolis about a Minnesota Department of Transportation project on I94, between Brooklyn Center and Dowling Ave. The DOT is considering adding traffic lanes to that stretch of interstate. One of the public meetings being held about this topic is taking place in Minneapolis on Thursday, August 15th at Folwell Rec Center from 4:30 – 7:30 pm.

Extinction Rebellion

Erin Niehoff announced a meeting of the Extinction Rebellion Twin Cities group. The meeting will take place at North Market on Saturday, August 17th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Upper Harbor Terminal Community Advisory Committee – Music Venue discussion

The Upper Harbor Terminal Community Advisory Committee is hosting a discussion of the proposed music venue for the Upper Harbor Terminal redevelopment on Thursday, August 15th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. A number of people in the community are opposed to the music venue, and would prefer a bandshell or something that is owned by the Park Board. The group is looking for support of this opposition. Would be great to have more community members there to express that. This will be the only opportunity for members of the public to discuss this music venue, which is currently a core piece of the development plan.

6:15 Discussion

1. *VW Settlement Phase 2 comment letter (tentative)*

Erin read the letter to the group, which mainly focused on the accessibility of the funds. For example, the group expressed concern about the applicants' abilities to match funds for school buses, since in many cases school districts have very limited funds to begin with. The group discussed potential edits to the letter, including specifying what barriers need to be addressed to make the funds more accessible. An example of this would be to specifically request that funds are allocated to smaller scale "slow" (L2) public charging stations, not just DC Fast Chargers along already established highway corridors.

A comment was made that the City's Public Works department has a significantly sized fleet, like that of a private contracting or construction company, which would benefit from these funds the most.

The group acknowledged that the letter needs a final paragraph, similar to a thesis statement, to wrap up the letter. In summary, the letter will address removing the cap on the award amount for school bus replacements, or suggesting that as much funding as possible goes to underfunded school districts. The group will also recommend that applications for smaller projects are prioritized, so that the funds aren't all funneled into large-scale projects.

After a brief discussion, the group decided to not include a point about considering residential applications, and to instead direct that idea towards the Transportation Action Plan planning process.

Nick Minderman made a motion to accept the revised letter, and the motion was seconded by David Watts. Erin Niehoff abstained from this vote. The motion passed.

2. *Bylaws updates - Erin Niehoff*

Erin provided a summary of the drafted updates to the CEAC bylaws. Since amendments need to be written and sent to members with at least ten days' notice before a vote can be taken, a written notice will be provided in these meeting minutes, and a vote will be cast at the September CEAC meeting. Most of the suggested edits to the bylaws are updates of the language to match what is stated in last year's enabling resolution. A note will be added about forming subgroups/subcommittees based on specific projects as opposed to general topic areas. Online voting will no longer need to be unanimous. Another suggestion included adding a provision about voting on and addressing time sensitive items.

Further discussion of this update and additional suggestions can be discussed at the September meeting. Members are asked to also suggest changes before the next meeting.

6:45 Subcommittee Updates

The group discussed updates from each of the project groups that met during the July meeting.

Transportation Action Plan Long Term Strategy

Nick Minderman put comments together that reference the Climate Action Plan, the previous Access Minneapolis Plan, and the Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan, and shared these comments with interested CEAC members. These comments can be edited and shared with City Council and the Mayor as soon as they are needed. The City of Minneapolis expected to have a draft Transportation Action Plan out in late 2019. Separately, the City of Minneapolis Public Works department is awaiting an update to the Green Fleet policy, and hope to have a draft of that by the end of August. Allan Campbell will follow the Green Fleet policy, and bring any updates to the group's attention at the September meeting. If the group is interested at that time, there could be a presentation to CEAC followed by the writing of a letter to be voted on and submitted to the City. If this is the case, that letter can reference a letter to Public Works sent by a previous CEAC group.

Electric Vehicles/Off-Street Parking (Saint Louis Park)

This group is finalizing edits to a draft of an electric vehicle off-street charging ordinance, modeling a similar ordinance passed by the City of St. Louis Park earlier this year. The proposed draft of this ordinance will be discussed at the September CEAC meeting, and if voted on, will be suggested for implementation by the City Council and Mayor.

Volkswagen Settlement

This topic was addressed earlier in the meeting. The group reiterated the prioritization of non-single-occupancy vehicles, and addressed the fact that electric vehicles are also sources of pollutants.

Zero Waste and Beautification

Cody Welchlin is in the process of meeting with representatives from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Public Schools to discuss the standardization of education materials and processes for recycling and composting. In the next month, this group is hoping to organize a date for touring the HERC and Eureka Recycling, for members of CEAC as well as the broader community.

Food Systems

Michelle Shaw has been attending planning meetings for the Minneapolis Food Action Plan, which will be added to the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan. The community is involved in the creation of this plan. Each planning meeting relates to a different topic that will be addressed in the plan, and the most recent meeting addressed the topic of diet and community demand. Michelle has been working with subgroups from other advisory boards and commissions that are focusing on this topic area, including the Northern Green Zone Task Force, working on suggesting an ordinance change to allow growing food in boulevards.

Evaluation of this meeting and agenda setting for next meeting

Topics to be discussed at the next meeting:

- Update of CEAC bylaws
- Green Fleet policy
- Electric vehicles/MPCA Volkswagen letter

A comment was made encouraging members and guests to arrive early or on time to these meetings in order to be effective and efficient with the meetings.

A link to sign up for tabling at events will be sent out in the meeting announcements.

Marianna Hefte will work on setting up a Friends of CEAC Instagram account.

Anthony Varriano suggested using one-sentence facts for the group's social media pages.

A member suggested creating a poster for use at the group's meeting spaces to encourage public attendance and participation.

7:34 Adjournment

Members split into their project groups to discuss progress and next steps after the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: September 5, 2019

Location: Roosevelt Library, 4026 S 28th Ave, Minneapolis, MN

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Sustainability Division at 612-673-3014 or e-mail kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.